



(I)

Provisional Sinn Fein (Glasgow) has come under attack regarding the stand they made on the proposed November 13th demonstration in Glasgow organised by a group calling itself the Irish Defence League. We wish to explain (not defend) our action to anyone who may be confused by recent events in Glasgow.

Provisional Sinn Fein first came into contact with the organisation known as the Irish Defence League in March this year when they were visited by the Scottish organiser. His advice at that time was "take nothing to do with them". A further meeting was attended by Sinn Fein member in October. It was his opinion that the Irish Defence League did not exist and that it was a front for two British Left wing groups. The question raised in Sinn Fein was: Why did two 'international' organisations set up a front, to work within, and ONLY within, the Catholic community in Glasgow. We believe that any other 'international' organisations doing this would have been accused as "sectarian" by both these groups.

For 4 successive Republican marches these organisations have worked against the Republican Movement.

1) On the Bloody Sunday demonstration in London called by Sinn Fein Britian, both I.M.G. and S.W.P. had refused to march with the Republican movement. Instead they choose to march on their own demonstration on the same day in London. How does this help Republican Prisoners?

2) For the July 9th Prisoners Aid Committee demonstration I.M.G. actively sabotaged the Mobilisation, while the S.W.P. did nothing. At a joint Provisional Sinn Fein/Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting on June 20th held to build for July 9th neither I.M.G. nor the S.W.P. provided the stewards they had been asked for. Not only did they not help to protect this meeting they organised their own Public meeting on Ireland ON THE SAME NIGHT after the PSF/RCG public meeting had been announced. I.M.G. said they would run 4 to 5 buses to London for July 9th. Later this was reduced to a definite promise from the I.M.G. Irish organiser for Scotland for 20 seats on the bus, guaranteeing to pay for these even if people did not show up. In the end not one member of I.M.G. travelled on the bus. The one member of I.M.G. who showed up on July 9th had to take the train because he hadn't even been told where the bus was leaving from. The demonstration brought 5,000 people onto the streets in support of POW status and troops out. The I.M.G. public declaration of 4-5 buses in support of this was, in practice, one single train ticket.

3) On August 13th none of the British Left groups in Scotland supported Sinn Fein Britian's march in London.

Against the wishes of the Prisoners Aid Committee, and against a background of sabotage and Political Ghicancy, the Irish defence League were accepted on the Glasgow November 26th Mobilisation Committee.

As a matter of FACT the following agreement was made:

1) That the Irish defence League would advertise the November 26th demonstration centrally on leaflets distributed on November 13th.

2) That the Irish Defence League, like all other organisations on the Committee (PSF. WRP. SRSC. RCG) make a definite financial commitment to the bus.

3) That a speaker from the mobilisation Committee be allowed to announce the November 26th Demonstration in London.

(2)

As the weekly meetings of this Committee progressed the first request was delayed. Finally at an I.D.L. meeting the original order of 20,000 leaflets was reduced to 5,000. And right up till the last minute they still had not been produced.

On the 2nd : condition: When final commitment to the bus was requested from ALL organisations represented on the committee, the Irish Defence League stated that they could not commit themselves to even two seats on the bus because they were financially committed to November 13th regarding expenses and accommodation for Republican bands travelling from Ireland (it was later discovered this was not true) but that they would be organising their own mini-bus to take 12 members to the demonstration. Within 24 hours they stated at an IDE meeting that they were running a full coach load of 53 people to the demonstration in London AT A COST OF £3 PER SEAT, & MORE THAN THE COMMITTEE BUS.

On the 3rd condition: They said they could not allow a speaker from the committee, but that November 26th would be "mentioned from the platform".

We had no reason to believe this would be done. At a public meeting organised by Socialist Unity (IMG) on 26th September with 2 IMG speakers and one IDE (also IMG) speaker the November 26th demonstration was not even mentioned. When others tried to mention it from the floor, they were obstructed by the chairman and were only heard because of the insistence of the audience. They also stated in their publicity that a Sinn Fein speaker would address the audience. Sinn Fein had no knowledge of this.

Taking these facts. And the attitude of the P.A.C. which had devoted a full front page in the PAC news to the 13th November, Sinn Fein came out against the march and encouraged Republican sympathisers NOT to attend. A statement was submitted to Republican News to this effect.

At a public meeting in Govan specific allegations were made by a Sinn Fein speaker which were not taken up by these organisations. Nor did they attempt to deny allegations made by a P.A.C. speaker.

Glasgow Sinn Fein stands by its decision to support the P.A.C.

The Prisoners Aid Committee is the authorised representatives of the Republican movement to act on behalf of Republican Prisoners in Britain. The P.A.C. has an outstanding and uncompromising record of political support for the Prisoners of War sustained even at the height of a bombing campaign. Glasgow Provisional Sinn Fein took a principled stand with the P.A.C. regarding this march on the 13th November.

They are now accusing PSF/PAC of sabotaging their march. It took the IDE/IMG 6 weeks NOT to produce the promised leaflets supporting the PAC demonstration. IT TOOK THEM LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO PRODUCE HUNDREDS OF LEAFLETS ATTACKING GLASGOW PROVISIONAL SNN FEIN.

Provisional Sinn Fein (Glasgow) believe they did the right thing and look to the Republican movement for support OR criticism.

(3)

In the end we will say this:

- 1) We will work with anyone who acts out of genuine support for the legitimate Political demands of the Irish people.
- 2) We will act with anyone who attacks the right of the British war machine to subjugate the Irish people and describe the acts of Irish Soldiers as the acts of criminals.

We are united with the sections of the British Labour movement who condemn the conditions the Prisoners of War are confined in.

We will not give support to organisations who are seen to be acting against the interests of building NATIONAL UNITED SUPPORT for these demands, in an attempt to capture votes in local Glasgow elections.

Who are on record as attacking the recognised leadership of the republican movement in Ireland, and who have condemned justified acts of revolutionary violence against the British state.

Who have advocated the return of the British Labour Government which is responsible for acts of military and legislative attacks on the Irish people.

*90 years on . . .*



*Thomas Clarke: 1888      H-Block: 1978*